



State of Louisiana

RELEASE

Office of the Governor

2011

GOVERNOR BOBBY JINDAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE

April 27,

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Governor Jindal Declares State of Emergency for Severe Weather

BATON ROUGE – Today, Governor Jindal declared a state of emergency for severe weather across the state.

STATE OF EMERGENCY – SEVERE WEATHER IMPACTING STATE

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers the Governor to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, throughout the night of Tuesday, April 26, 2011, a severe weather system passed through the State creating damaging high wind conditions, tornadic activity, and heavy rainfall;

WHEREAS, multiple Parishes in Central and Northern Louisiana have sustained damage caused by this severe weather system including downed trees and power lines cutting off power to thousands of residents, blocked roads, closed schools, and damaged structures, with more damage predicted to be reported;

WHEREAS, this severe weather system and resulting damage threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State of Louisiana; and,

WHEREAS, the State has received requests for assistance from Parishes and anticipates that assistance may be needed to assist additional Parishes in their response to the adverse effects of these severe weather conditions; and,

NOW THEREFORE, I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist statewide as a result of the extended dangerous weather system that has and continues to impact the State with the threat of additional damage that continues to threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the State.

SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.

SECTION 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather event.

SECTION 4: This state of emergency extends from Wednesday, April 27, 2011 to Friday, May 27, 2011, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 27th day of April, 2011.

/S/ Bobby Jindal _____
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

/S/ Tom Schedler _____
SECRETARY OF STATE

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